

consultation should be handled by telephone and documented in the running record.

(c) Applicants who appear eligible but do not have the priority necessary for further consideration at this time should be notified that funds are not available, requested to advise whether they wish to have their application maintained for future consideration and given the following notice:

You are advised against incurring obligations which would limit the range of alternatives to be considered, or which cannot be fulfilled without FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 funds until the funds are actually made available. Therefore, you should refrain from such actions as initiating engineering and legal work, taking actions which would have an adverse effect on the environment, taking options on land rights, developing detailed plans and specifications, or inviting construction bids until notified by Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 to proceed.

§ 1942.108 Application docket preparation and review.

(a) *Guides.* Application dockets should be developed in accordance with § 1942.2(c) of subpart A of this part 1942.

(b) [Reserved]

(c) *Budgets.* All applicants must complete Form FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 442-7, "Operating Budget," except as provided in this paragraph. Applicants with annual incomes not exceeding \$100,000 may, with concurrence of the District Director, use Form FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 1942-52, "Cash Flow Projection," instead of Form FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 442-7. Projections should be provided for the current year and each year thereafter until the facility is expected to have been in operation for a full year and a full annual installment paid on the loan.

(d) *Letter of conditions.* The District Director should prepare and issue a letter of conditions in accordance with § 1942.5 (a)(1) and (c) of subpart A of this part 1942.

(e) *Organizational review.* As early in the application process as practical, the approval official should obtain cop-

ies of organization documents from each applicant and forward them through the State Office to the Regional Attorney for review and comments. The Regional Attorney's comments should be received and considered before obligation of funds.

(f) *National Office review.* Applications that require National Office review will be submitted in accordance with § 1942.5(b) of subpart A of this part 1942.

(g) *State Office review.* The State Office must monitor fire and rescue and other small community facility project loanmaking and servicing and provide guidance, assistance, and training as necessary to ensure the activities are accomplished in an orderly manner consistent with the Agency's regulations. The processing office should request advice and assistance from the State Office as needed. The State Director may require all or part of a specific application docket to be submitted to the State Office for review at any time. The State Director may determine that one or more of the processing office staffs do not have adequate training and expertise to routinely complete application dockets without State Office review. In such cases, the State Director should establish guidelines by memorandum or by State supplement to the subpart for the necessary State Office reviews.

(h) *Loan approval and fund obligation.* Loans must be approved and obligated in accordance with § 1942.5(d) of subpart A of this part 1942 and subpart A of part 1901 of this chapter.

[52 FR 43726, Nov. 16, 1987, as amended at 54 FR 47197, Nov. 13, 1989; 67 FR 60854, Sept. 27, 2002; 68 FR 65830, Nov. 24, 2003]

§§ 1942.109–1942.110 [Reserved]

§ 1942.111 Applicant eligibility.

(a) *General.* Loans under this subpart are subject to the provisions of § 1942.17(b) of subpart A of this part 1942.

(b) *Credit elsewhere determinations.* The approval official must determine whether financing from commercial sources at reasonable rates and terms is available. If credit elsewhere is indicated, the approval official should inform the applicant and recommend the applicant apply to commercial sources

for financing. To provide a basis for referral of only those applicants who may be able to finance projects through commercial sources, approval officials should maintain liaison with representatives of lenders in the area. The State Director should keep approval officials informed regarding lenders outside the area who might make loans in the area. Approval officials should maintain criteria for determining applications that should be referred to commercial lenders and maintain a list of lender representatives interested in receiving such referrals.

(c) *Public use.* Loans under this subpart are subject to the provisions of § 1942.17(e) of subpart A of this part 1942.

[52 FR 43726, Nov. 16, 1987, as amended at 68 FR 65830, Nov. 24, 2003]

§ 1942.112 Eligible loan purposes.

(a) Funds may be used:

(1) To construct, enlarge, extend, or otherwise improve essential community facilities primarily providing fire or rescue services primarily to rural residents and rural business. Rural businesses would include facilities such as educational and other publicly owned facilities. "Otherwise improve" includes but is not limited to the following:

(i) The purchase of major equipment, such as fire trucks and ambulances, which will, in themselves, provide an essential service to rural residents.

(ii) The purchase of existing facilities when it is necessary either to improve or to prevent a loss of service.

(iii) The construction or development of an essential community facility requisite to the beneficial and orderly development of a community operated on a nonprofit basis in accordance with § 1942.17(d) of this subpart. This subpart includes those projects meeting the definition of a small community facility project.

(2) To pay the following expenses, but only when such expenses are a necessary part of a loan to finance facilities authorized in paragraph (a)(1) of this section:

(i) Reasonable fees and costs such as legal, engineering, architectural, fiscal advisory, recording, environmental im-

pact analyses, archaeological surveys and possible salvage or other mitigation measures, planning, establishing or acquiring rights.

(ii) Interest on loans until the facility is self-supporting but not for more than 3 years unless a longer period is approved by the National Office; interest on loans secured by general obligation bonds until tax revenues are available for payment, but not for more than 2 years unless a longer period is approved by the National Office; and interest on interim financing, including interest charges on interim financing from sources other than FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354.

(iii) Costs of acquiring interest in land, rights such as water rights, leases, permits, rights-of-way, and other evidence of land or water control necessary for development of the facility.

(iv) Purchasing or renting equipment necessary to install, maintain, extend, protect, operate, or utilize facilities.

(v) Initial operating expenses for a period ordinarily not exceeding 1 year when the borrower is unable to pay such expenses.

(vi) Refinancing debts incurred by, or on behalf of, a community when all of the following conditions exist:

(A) The debts being refinanced are a secondary part of the total loan;

(B) The debts are incurred for the facility or service being financed or any part thereof; and

(C) Arrangements cannot be made with the creditors to extend or modify the terms of the debts so that a sound basis will exist for making a loan.

(3) To pay obligations for construction or procurement incurred before loan approval. Construction work or procurement actions should not be started and obligations for such work or materials should not be incurred before the loan is approved. However, if there are compelling reasons for proceeding with construction or procurement before loan approval, applicants may request FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 approval to pay such obligations. Such requests may be approved if FmHA or its successor agency under Public Law 103-354 determines that: